

U.S. Army Chemical Corps Research and Development Command  
U. S. ARMY BIOLOGICAL WARFARE LABORATORIES  
Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland

CMLRD-EW-1C-PD

10 November 1959

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

At long last the first signs of action are taking place on the moon probe sterilization business, and I thought you might like a brief progress report.

A little over a week ago, NASA finally came across with funds so that we could help in this matter, and yesterday I had my first meeting with them to discuss a plan of action. As a result of the meeting, I will be leaving Thursday, November 12th, with two of my colleagues to visit Mr. Horton of the Space Technology Laboratories, and then to see the people at Jet Propulsion Laboratories early the next week. I am not sure how much can be done to help Mr. Horton at this late date, but I did at last convince the authorities at NASA that we should stop talking about this subject interminably in conference rooms and waste no time in getting out to look at equipment and running tests in their laboratories.

Before all this started we did have a conference held here with several of the engineers for Jet Propulsion Laboratories, and we have already bootlegged, so to speak, some laboratory investigations on their behalf. You may be interested to know that the two or three vacuum tubes and transistors which we have dissected to date were sterile on the inside. I can only hope that this establishes a trend and that some of our problems may be simpler than we feared.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charlie Phillips".

CHARLES R. PHILLIPS  
Chief, Physical Defense Division